

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170292
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EA JBADER

APPROVED BY:JBADER

-----042227 071131Z /20

R 061618Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USS HAROLD HOLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170292

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 12130 ACTION USS HAROLD HOLT DATED
JULY 5, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170292

HARRY HOLT FOR ASST SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 12130 ACTION STATE INFO CANBERRA BANGKOK
MOSCOW SEOULD CAIRO TEHRAN JIDDA PEKING CINCPAC HONOLULU JULY 5.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12130

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: VM, KS, XF, JA

SUBJECT: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES

REF: A. TOKYO 11758 (NOTAL); B. TOKYO 5939 (NOTAL)

C. TOKYO 11595 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: DURING JULY 5 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH
AMBASSADOR, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARITA DISCUSSED VISIT
NOW UNDERWAY OF VIETNAMESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER, ISSUES
IN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS, AND PROSPECTS FOR FUKUDA TRIP TO
MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY

2. VIETNAM: ARITA NOTED PHAN HIEN VISIT WAS IN RESPONSE

TO INVITATION EXTENDED DURING HIS 1976 VISIT TO HANOI, AND THAT HIEN WAS HERE AS GUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER, NOT OF PRIME MINISTER. VIETNAMESE HAD ATTEMPTED TO RAISE LEVEL OF VISIT BY ARMING HIEN WITH MESSAGE FROM PHAM VAN DONG AND NAMING HIM PRIME MINISTERIAL ENVOY, AND HIEN PARTY HAD INDICATED UPON ARRIVAL THAT HIEN EXPECTED SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA. JAPANESE SIDE HAD DISABUSED THEM OF THAT NOTION; HIEN WILL SEE FUKUDA, BUT TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE AT FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN NAKAE WAS SCHEDULED TO HOST DINNER; VIETNAMESE SIDE HAD BEEN UNSURE WHETHER TO ACCEPT BUT WAS TOLD THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF HIGHER-RANKING HOST.

3. AS FOR SUBSTANCE OF VISIT, ARITA SAID THAT JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DISCUSSED, I.E., IMPLEMENTATION OF AID LEVELS AGREED UPON LAST APRIL (REF B). ARITA SAID GOJ WAS DISTURBED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF VIETNAMESE ACCESSION TO CEMA, AND HOPED HIEN WOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FOR JAPANESE-SRV ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. HE SAID RUMORS THAT SOVIETS WERE ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES IN CAM RANH BAY, AND GENERAL QUESTION OF SOVIET ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM, WAS ANOTHER DISTURBING AREA JAPANESE WISHED TO PROBE WITH HIEN.

4. KOREA: ARITA SAID JAPAN-KOREA MINISTERIALS WOULD TAKE
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PLACE IN LATE AUGUST IF ALL WENT WELL. ONE POSSIBLE COMPLICATION WAS FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S INSISTENCE THAT QUESTION OF TAKESHIMA/DOKTO BE TAKEN UP. GOJ POSITION WAS THAT, WHILE QUESTION PERHAPS COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN CONTEXT OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE RATHER THAN TO PRETEND IT DID NOT EXIST. ARITA THOUGHT THAT IF ROK COULD NOT AGREE TO INCLUDE TAKESHIMA/DOKTO ON MINISTERIAL AGENDA, SONODA WOULD NOT ATTEND.

5. FUKUDA TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST: ARITA SAID THAT BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY OF DIET DISSOLUTION, PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULE BEYOND EARLY SEPTEMBER WAS BEING HELD OPEN. FINAL EVENT NOW ON AGENDA WAS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST: IRAN, SEPTEMBER 6-8; EGYPT, SEPTEMBER 8-10; SAUDI ARABIA, SEPTEMBER 10-12. CAIRO AND TEHERAN HAD RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO PROPOSED DATES; SAUDIS, HOWEVER, ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT TO OCTOBER, CITING POST-RAMADAN COMPLICATIONS. OCTOBER WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR FUKUDA BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCHEDULE, WHICH COULD MEAN VISIT TO IRAN AND END EGYPT ALONE. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE170292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA JBADER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0034
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780789/aaaacxit.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8281e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 TOKYO 11758, 78 TOKYO 5939, 78 TOKYO 11595
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2098228
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, OVIP, VM, KS, XF, JA, (MANSFIELD, MICHAEL J), (FUKUDA, TAKEO), (ARITA, KEISUKE), (PHAN HIEN)
To: USS HAROLD HOLT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8281e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014